

THE DANCE SCENE

CINDY VAN ACKER QUIET LIGHT

LUGANO With *Quiet Light*, which had its world premiere at LAC for Lugano Dance Project, Swiss choreographer Cindy Van Acker has crafted a tiny masterpiece of dance. Acker's thirty-year career won her the "Grand Prix suisse des arts de la scène" award last year. Now, in *Quiet Light* she distils her incessant research into movement as a sort of invisible energetic fluid, which manifests itself when it encounters the dancers' bodies. In this case, they are two women, the extraordinary Stéphanie Bayle and Daniela Zaghini, moving through a twilight scene inspired by Léon Spilliaert's otherworldly nocturnal paintings. Their movements seem to occur separately but at the same time, according to a kinaesthetic empathy which sometimes converges in brief, synchronised sequences. A masterful architecture of sound, music and lighting creates an ethereal atmosphere in which the bodies are multiplied by beams of light, creating shadows that seem to dance to their own inner logic. On the one hand, this remarkable dialogue between bodies and shadows conjures the pioneering

photographic studies of Étienne Jules Marey and Eadweard Muybridge, who attempted to capture movement and somehow grasp its very soul; on the other, it invites a poetic reflection upon the nature of dance itself, and how it is perceived in an era of blurred lines, when principles and forms can no longer be defined with absolute certainty. At the end, a cloud obscures the stage: its troubling beauty closes a remarkably rigorous, understated show which seems to be trying to capture what now remains of images and gestures that are on the verge of disappearing altogether. **Roberto Giambrone**

On tour

11-19 December, Pavillon ADC, Geneva, Switzerland
21-25 January, Théâtre Vidy, Lausanne, Switzerland



Two scenes from Van Acker's
"Quiet Light" (© Mathilda Olmi)

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